

FREE GAME BONUS ROUND FOR GAMING MACHINES

Michael Gauselmann

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A system of linked gaming machines is disclosed herein. Upon a certain
5 triggering event occurring, eligible gaming machines simultaneously receive a signal for
initiating a free game bonus round. The players that have been playing the gaming
machines will then play a certain number of free games in a competition with other
players involved in the same bonus round. The player awarded the most credits or points
from the play of the free games is awarded a special jackpot. Other jackpot games (e.g.,
10 split jackpot) are also envisioned. In another embodiment, a jackpot award or any award
to the player may be granted based on a certain outcome of the free games. The
possibility of the free game bonus round occurring at any time provides incentive for
players to keep playing the linked gaming machines. The free game bonus round may
also be played on a single non-linked machine where bonuses may be granted for credits
15 exceeding certain levels. Other features are described, such as the dynamic allocation of
percentages of wagers to various jackpots and other pots used in the free game bonus
round.